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BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

TOM FORESE, Chairman

BOB BURNS, Commissioner

DOUG LITTLE, Commissioner

ANDY TOBIN, Commissioner

BOYD W. DUNN, Commissioner

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION
OF ARIZONA PUBLIC SERVICE
COMPANY FOR A HEARING TO
DETERMINE THE FAIR VALUE OF THE
UTILITY PROPERTY OF THE COMPANY
FOR RATEMAKING PURPOSES, TO FIX
A JUST AND REASONABLE RATE OF
RETURN THEREON, TO APPROVE RATE
SCHEDULES DESIGNED TO DEVELOP
SUCH RETURN.**

Docket No.: E-01345A-16-0036

**IN THE MATTER OF FUEL AND
PURCHASED POWER PROCUREMENT
AUDITS FOR ARIZONA PUBLIC
SERVICE COMPANY.**

Docket No.: E-01345A-16-0123

**NOTICE OF FILING DIRECT
TESTIMONY OF SARA
BIRMINGHAM AND R.
THOMAS BEACH IN SUPPORT
OF THE SETTLEMENT
AGREEMENT**

The Solar Energy Industries Association, ("SEIA"), through its undersigned counsel, hereby provides notice that it has filed the attached direct testimony of Sara Birmingham and R. Thomas Beach in support of the proposed settlement agreement.

DATED this 3rd day of April, 2017

/s/ Giancarlo G. Estrada

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10 Original and 13 copies filed on this 16th day of
11 December, 2016 with:

12 Docket Control
13 Arizona Corporation Commission
14 1200 W. Washington St.
15 Phoenix, Arizona 85007

16 *I hereby certify that I have this day served a copy of the foregoing document on all parties of*
17 *record in this proceeding by regular or electronic mail:*

18 BY: /s/ Katrina Donaldson
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**DIRECT TESTIMONY OF R. THOMAS BEACH IN SUPPORT
OF THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

On behalf of the

Solar Energy Industries Association

Docket No. E-01345A-16-0036

Docket No. E-01345A-16-0123

April 3, 2017

**Direct Testimony of R. Thomas Beach in Support of the
Settlement Agreement**

**On behalf of the Solar Energy Industries Association
Docket No. E-01345A-16-0036 and E-01345A-16-0123**

1 I. INTRODUCTION AND QUALIFICATIONS

2
3 **Q1: Please state for the record your name, position, and business address.**

4 A1: My name is R. Thomas Beach. I am principal consultant of the consulting firm
5 Crossborder Energy. My business address is 2560 Ninth Street, Suite 213A, Berkeley,
6 California 94710.

7
8 **Q2: Please describe your experience and qualifications.**

9 A2: My experience and qualifications are described in the attached *curriculum vitae* (CV),
10 which is Exhibit RTB-1 to the direct testimony I submitted in this proceeding on
11 February 3, 2017. As reflected in my CV, I have more than 35 years of experience on
12 rate design and ratemaking issues for natural gas and electric utilities. I graduated from
13 Dartmouth College in 1977 with a B.A. in English and physics. In 1980, I completed an
14 M.E. degree in mechanical engineering from the University of California at Berkeley. I
15 am a registered professional engineer in the state of California. I began my career in
16 1981 on the staff at the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), working on the
17 implementation of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act. From 1984-1989, I was an
18 advisor to three CPUC commissioners. Since 1989, I have had a private consulting
19 practice on energy issues and have appeared, testified, or submitted testimony, studies, or
20 reports on numerous occasions before state regulatory commissions in Arizona and
21 nineteen other states. My CV includes a list of the formal testimony that I have
22 sponsored in various state regulatory proceedings concerning electric and gas utilities.

1
2 **Q3: Please describe more specifically your experience on rate design and the rates**
3 **applicable to renewable distributed generation (DG) resources.**

4 A3: Over the last decade, I have sponsored testimony on rate design issues concerning solar
5 DG in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Nevada,
6 and Texas. This includes representing several solar industry groups in the CPUC's major
7 investigation from 2012-2015 into residential rate design in California. In 2014-2015, I
8 participated in the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission's investigation into distributed
9 generation and net energy metering (NEM) by designing a new residential time-of-use
10 (TOU) rate for the Hawaiian investor-owned utilities. With respect to benefit-cost issues
11 concerning renewable DG, I have sponsored testimony on NEM and solar economics in
12 Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New
13 Mexico, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia. I also co-authored the
14 chapter on Distributed Generation Policy in *America's Power Plan*, a report on emerging
15 energy issues, which was released in 2013 and is designed to provide policymakers with
16 tools (including rate design changes) to address key questions concerning distributed
17 generation resources.¹ In the last four years, I have co-authored benefit-cost studies of
18 NEM or solar DG in Arizona, California, Colorado, New Hampshire, and North Carolina,
19 including benefit-cost studies of solar DG on the Arizona Public Service (APS) system in
20 2013 and 2016.²

21
22

¹ This report has been published in *The Electricity Journal*, Volume 26, Issue 8 (October 2013). It is also available at <http://americaspowerplan.com/>.

² The Arizona studies are *The Benefits and Costs of Solar Distributed Generation for Arizona Public Service* (May 2013), available at <http://www.seia.org/sites/default/files/resources/AZ-Distributed-Generation.pdf>, and the update to this study from February 2016 which is in the record of the Value of Solar Docket No. E-00000J-14-0023, submitted as an exhibit to my testimony in that case on behalf of The Alliance for Solar Choice.

1 **Q4: Have you testified or appeared previously before this Commission?**

2 A4: Yes, I have. I sponsored testimony on behalf of The Alliance for Solar Choice (TASC)
3 in the Value of Solar Docket No. E-00000J-14-0023. I also testified on behalf of the
4 Energy Freedom Coalition of America (EFCA) in Tucson Electric Power's Renewable
5 Energy Standard and Tariff (REST) proceeding, Docket No. E-01933A-15-0239. I also
6 filed testimony in this proceeding on February 3, 2017 on behalf of the Solar Energy
7 Industries Association (SEIA).

8
9 **Q5: On whose behalf are you testifying today?**

10 A5: I am appearing on behalf of SEIA. SEIA is the national trade association of the United
11 States solar industry. Through advocacy and education, SEIA and its 1,000 member
12 companies work to make solar energy a mainstream and significant energy source by
13 expanding markets, removing market barriers, strengthening the industry, and educating
14 the public on the benefits of solar energy. SEIA's members have a strong interest in the
15 adoption and implementation of innovative, forward-looking policies and programs that
16 will accelerate the development of solar photovoltaic (PV) generation. The views
17 contained in this testimony represent the position of SEIA as an organization, but not
18 necessarily the views of any particular member with respect to any issue.

19
20 **Q6: What is the purpose of your testimony?**

21 A6: My testimony addresses the reasonableness of the Resource Comparison Proxy Rate
22 (RCP) that is addressed in Section 18.3 of the Settlement Agreement. For the reasons
23 explained below, the settled RCP price of 12.9 cents per kWh is a reasonable outcome for
24 settling the RCP price.

1 II. REASONABLENESS OF THE RCP PRICE FOR DG EXPORTS

2
3 **Q7: Section 18.3 of the Settlement Agreement provides that “[t]he Resource Comparison**
4 **Proxy Rate (“RCP”) for exported energy established in Decision No. 75859, as**
5 **amended by Decision No. 75932, will be \$0.129/kWh in year one, which is inclusive**
6 **of undifferentiated transmission, distribution, and loss components. This export**
7 **rate will be calculated using a 2015 base year with an adjustment to achieve the final**
8 **export rate.” Please explain the background for this term of the settlement.**

9 A7: At issue in this case is the detailed implementation of the RCP price for energy exported
10 to APS from distributed generation (DG) facilities on the APS system. The methodology
11 and broad policies for the RCP were established in the Commission’s “Value of Solar”
12 Decision No. 75859, as amended by Decision No. 75932. These orders establish an RCP
13 price (in \$ per kWh) based on, as a proxy, the levelized cost of all grid-scale solar
14 photovoltaic facilities that have gone into service on the APS system in the last five
15 years. Decision No. 75859, at page 152 (lines 13-14), decided that the RCP price also
16 should include “avoided transmission, distribution capacity and line losses.” In requiring
17 consideration of these avoided delivery costs that result from the addition of solar DG,
18 the Commission stated that “[in] order for the comparison between central station solar
19 and DG to be meaningful and accurate, these key differences must be addressed and
20 included in the Resource Comparison Proxy analysis that will occur in the rate cases.”³

21
22 **Q8: Did APS present testimony in this case on how to implement the RCP price adopted**
23 **in the Value of Solar docket?**

24 A8: Yes. In the Value of Solar case (Docket No. E-00000J-14-0023) APS developed and
25 presented a spreadsheet model of the levelized busbar cost of its grid-scale solar facilities
26 – both utility-owned projects as well as third-party units from which APS purchases the

³ Decision No. 75859, page 152, lines 14-17.

1 power through power purchase agreements (PPAs). This model produced a busbar cost
2 of APS's solar facilities of 10.9 cents per kWh. In this case, APS sponsored the
3 supplemental testimony of Messrs. Burke and Miessner, presenting APS's proposed RCP
4 price based again on certain specific calculations using the spreadsheet model. APS also
5 added 3.72% avoided line losses at voltage levels up to 69 kV, but no avoided
6 transmission and distribution (T&D) costs. The final resulting RCP price in the APS
7 testimony was 11.524 cents per kWh.⁴

8
9 **Q9: If a settlement had not been reached in this case before the due date for intervenor**
10 **testimony on RCP issues, would SEIA have contested certain elements of the APS**
11 **RCP calculation?**

12 A9: Yes. In particular, SEIA would have contested, first, APS's assumptions for avoided line
13 losses, and, second, its exclusion of any avoided T&D capacity costs from the RCP
14 calculation.

15
16 **Q10: Please discuss SEIA's litigation position on avoided line losses.**

17 A10: SEIA's position would have been that APS also should have included, at a minimum, its
18 full average or marginal system losses at all voltage levels, including at voltages of 69 kV
19 and above, in addition to the 3.72% average losses for voltages of 69 kV and below.

20
21 APS excluded the losses at the higher voltages based on an assertion that none of the
22 utility-scale solar facilities on the APS system delivers power to the grid at voltages
23 greater than 69 kV.⁵ However, this does not mean that higher voltage facilities are not
24 used to deliver utility-scale solar to APS customers. Power that is received into the APS
25 system at 69 kV can be stepped up to higher voltages, and then transmitted to APS's load

⁴ See Supplemental Direct Testimony of Jeffrey Burke for APS (served December 30, 2016), at pp. 4-6; hereafter, "APS Burke testimony."

⁵ APS Burke testimony, at p. 5.

1 centers, before it is stepped down in voltage for delivery to customers. This can result in
2 losses that are higher than system average losses at all voltage levels, so the use of system
3 average losses at all voltage levels may be conservative, i.e. on the low side. In fact, in
4 recent years, APS has been building, in phases, new 500 kV lines from the Yuma area to
5 the Palo Verde hub and then to the Phoenix load center, all with a stated purpose of
6 accessing utility-scale solar and natural gas resources in the Yuma and Palo Verde areas.⁶
7 If these 500 kV lines are needed to transmit utility-scale solar to the APS load center in
8 Phoenix, then certainly utility-scale solar resources should be assessed line losses at all
9 voltages up to and including 500 kV.

10
11 Thus, at a minimum, APS should have used the 2.5% average losses above 69 kV to the
12 3.7% average losses at 69 kV and below, for total system average losses of 6.2%.

13
14 Further, to quantify the line loss impacts of solar DG on a marginal cost basis, SEIA
15 recommends the industry standard approach for quantifying the avoided losses that is
16 included in the benefit/cost study of solar DG on the APS system that The Alliance for
17 Solar Choice (TASC) presented in the Value of Solar docket. TASC's approach followed
18 the marginal or avoided line losses calculations in two prior studies of solar DG benefits
19 that APS commissioned. In these studies, the marginal or avoided line losses for solar
20 DG on the APS system are calculated to be 12.1%.⁷

21
22 **Q11: What is SEIA's litigation position on avoided T&D capacity costs for APS?**

⁶ These are the North Gila to Palo Verde 500 kV line and the segments of the Palo Verde to Morgan 500 kV line. The purpose of these lines to access solar and gas resources are stated in APS's Renewable Transmission Plan and its recent 10-year Transmission Plans.

⁷ Direct Testimony of R. Thomas Beach on behalf of TASC (Docket No. E-00000J-14-0023), served February 25, 2016, at Exhibit 2 (hereafter "TASC's APS DG Benefit/Cost Study"), at pp. 8 and 12. This approach uses the methodology for avoided line losses that R.W. Beck and SAIC developed in their 2009 and 2013 DG benefit/cost studies for APS.

APS's Mr. Miessner argues that APS's avoided transmission costs from solar DG are zero, because exports from solar DG were only 8 MW during a single peak hour in 2015. However, looking at a single peak hour in a single year does not follow APS's own cost of service study, which uses the four summer monthly coincident peak demands (4 CP) to allocate transmission costs, four summer monthly non-coincident peak demands (4 NCP) to allocate primary distribution costs, and the sum of individual maximum demands to allocate secondary distribution costs. SEIA's testimony in this case showed that solar customers avoid a significant fraction of APS's T&D costs for residential customers on an embedded cost of service basis, as shown in **Table 1** below, which is a slightly expanded version of Table 3 from SEIA's direct testimony, to emphasize the change in T&D costs resulting from solar DG.

Table 1: Change in APS Residential Embedded T&D Costs due to Solar

Cost Component	Basis for Cost Allocation	Average Cost (\$/MWh)	Cost Reduction due to Solar (%)	T&D Cost Reduction due to Solar (\$/MWh)
Energy	Annual Energy	\$33.57	-30%	
Production Demand	4CP / 4 NCP	\$37.26	-38%	
Transmission	4CP	\$8.50	-42%	-\$3.57
Distribution – Primary & Substations	4 NCP	\$14.51	-33%	-\$4.79
Distribution – Secondary	Sum of Individual Max Demands	\$7.60	-10%	-\$0.76
All Categories (Wtd. by Average Cost)		\$101.44	-33%	
Total Reduction in Embedded T&D Costs				-\$9.12

On a marginal cost basis, APS's avoided T&D capacity costs are even higher. TASC presented this evidence in its direct testimony in the Value of Solar docket.⁸ The following **Table 2** summarizes this evidence.

Table 2: APS Residential Marginal / Avoided T&D Capacity Costs due to Solar

Panel Orientation	Avoided T (\$/MWh)	Avoided D (\$/MWh)	Avoided T&D (\$/MWh)
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⁸ TASC's APS DG Benefit/Cost Study, pp. 13-16, esp. Tables 5 and 6.

South-facing	9	15	24
West-Facing	16	32	48
Average	12.5	23.5	36

Q12: Please summarize SEIA's litigation position on the total RCP price, including the line losses and T&D costs that solar DG avoids.

A12: SEIA's litigation position is summarized in **Table 3**, on both an embedded and a marginal cost basis, and is expressed in cents per kWh.

Table 3: SEIA's Litigation Position on the APS RCP

Method	Utility-scale Solar Busbar Costs (cents/kWh)	Line Losses (%)	Avoided T&D, from Tables 1 and 2 (cents/kWh)	Total RCP Price (cents/kWh)
Embedded Costs	11.1	6.2%	0.9	12.7
Marginal Costs	11.1	12.1%	3.6	16.0

Q13: In light of the APS and SEIA litigation positions, why is the proposed settlement RCP of 12.9 cents per kWh reasonable?

A13: The Settlement is above the APS litigation position, at the low end of SEIA's litigation position, and well below what SEIA would have recommended based on APS's marginal or avoided T&D costs. Thus, the settlement is well within the range of possible outcomes for the litigation of the RCP price. The settled RCP price of 12.9 cents per kWh is close to the RCP price that would result from a T&D adder based on system line losses (6.2%) and a reasonable assessment of the change in APS's T&D cost of service that results from the addition of behind-the-meter solar DG instead of utility-scale solar.

Q14: Does this conclude your prepared testimony in support of the Settlement Agreement?

A14: Yes, it does.

**DIRECT TESTIMONY OF SARA BIRMINGHAM IN SUPPORT OF
THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT**

On behalf of the

Solar Energy Industries Association

Docket No. E-01345A-16-0036

Docket No. E-01345A-16-0123

April 3, 2017

**Direct Testimony of Sara Birmingham in Support of the
Settlement Agreement
On behalf of the Solar Energy Industries Association
Docket Nos. E-01345A-16-0036 and E-01345A-16-0123**

1 I. INTRODUCTION AND QUALIFICATIONS

2
3 **Q1: Please state your name, position, and business address for the record.**

4 A1: My name is Sara Birmingham. I am the Senior Director of State Affairs for the
5 Solar Energy Industries Association ("SEIA"). My business address is 3300
6 NE 157th Pl, Portland, OR.
7

8 **Q2: Please describe your experience and qualifications.**

9 A2: I am a Senior Director for State Affairs for the Solar Energy Industries
10 Association. Prior to joining SEIA in 2012, I was the Western Director for
11 Policy for the Solar Alliance since 2007, with a focus on legislative and
12 regulatory activity in California. I have been involved in renewable and clean
13 distributed generation and energy efficiency since 1998 when I began my
14 career at Pacific Gas and Electric Company. I have a BS in Environmental
15 Engineering with an emphasis in Renewable Energy from Humboldt State
16 University.
17

18 **Q3: Have you testified or appeared previously before this Commission?**

19 A3: No, I have not. However, I have testified before the Colorado, California and
20 Nevada Public Utilities Commissions.
21
22

1 **Q4: On whose behalf are you testifying today?**

2 A4: I am appearing on behalf of SEIA. SEIA is the national trade association of the
3 United States solar industry. Through advocacy and education, SEIA and its
4 1,000 member companies work to make solar energy a mainstream and
5 significant energy source by expanding markets, removing market barriers,
6 strengthening the industry, and educating the public on the benefits of solar
7 energy. SEIA's members have a strong interest in the adoption and
8 implementation of innovative, forward-looking policies and programs that
9 will accelerate the development of solar photovoltaic generation. The views
10 contained in this testimony represent the position of SEIA as an organization,
11 but not necessarily the views of any particular member with respect to any
12 issue.

13
14 **Q5: What is the purpose of your testimony?**

15 A5: The purpose of my testimony is to support the reasonableness of the
16 Settlement Agreement from SEIA's perspective. In particular, my testimony
17 focuses on: (1) the reasonableness of providing non-discriminatory rate
18 options to solar customers, (2) the reasonableness of the proposed TOU-E
19 rate design, (3) the reasonableness of the Resource Comparison Proxy
20 ("RCP") payment level for distributed generation customers' exports of
21 electricity to the APS system, (4) the reasonableness of the grandfathering
22 provisions that apply to solar customers that submit completed
23 interconnection applications prior to the rate effective date of the final
24 decision issued in this proceeding, and (5) the reasonableness of the revenue
25 requirement provisions of the Settlement Agreement.

1 II. REASONABLENESS OF THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

2
3 **Q6. Does SEIA support the Settlement Agreement?**

4 A6. Yes. SEIA actively participated in the settlement discussions that led up to
5 the Settlement Agreement. Although the Settlement Agreement does not
6 include all of the outcomes that SEIA's members would have liked to achieve,
7 SEIA believes the terms of the Settlement Agreement, when viewed in their
8 totality, are just, reasonable, fair, and in the public interest.
9

10 **Q7. Does SEIA believe the rate options provided to solar customers under**
11 **the Settlement Agreement are reasonable?**

12 A7. Yes. Section 18.1 of the Settlement Agreement provides that residential
13 distributed generation ("DG") customers will be eligible for four different
14 rate schedules, including all proposed TOU and demand schedules.
15

16 SEIA strongly supports the continued availability of TOU rate options for
17 both DG and non-DG customers. The direct testimony of R. Thomas Beach,
18 which was submitted by SEIA on February 3, 2017, explains why TOU rates
19 are more accurate and cost-based for both DG and non-DG customers than
20 demand rates.¹ For this reason, SEIA supports the continued availability of a
21 TOU rate option, as provided for in the Settlement Agreement.
22

23 SEIA also supports the Settlement Agreement's provision of comparable rate
24 options for DG and non-DG customers. SEIA believes the provision of
25 comparable rate treatment is a reasonable outcome that treats DG and non-

¹ Pages 13-25.

DG customers of APS in a non-discriminatory manner. Although several flat rate options will be unavailable to DG customers in the near term, Section 19.1 of the Settlement Agreement explains that flat rate options will largely be phased out after May 1, 2018, at least for larger residential customers.

Q8. Does SEIA support the TOU-E rate that will be available to DG and non-DG customers under the Settlement Agreement?

A8. Yes. Section 17.4 of the Settlement Agreement describes the proposed TOU-E rate design that the Settlement Agreement proposes to make available to both DG and non-DG customers. The TOU-E rate schedule itself is contained in Appendix F of the Settlement Agreement. SEIA supports the proposed TOU-E rate and believes that it is just and reasonable.

A key difference between the charges imposed on DG customers versus non-DG customers under the TOU-E rate is the application of a "Grid Access Charge" of \$0.93/kW-DC of installed generating capacity for DG customers that take service under the TOU-E tariff. Sections 17.4, 18.1, and 18.2 of the Settlement Agreement explain that the Grid Access Charge is intended to achieve a "self-consumption offset rate" for DG customers taking service under the TOU-E rate of \$0.105/kWh, inclusive of the Grid Access Charge and exclusive of rate riders and taxes. In this respect, the Grid Access Charge allows DG customers to take service under the same tariff that is available to non-DG customers by applying an additional fee that results in a total "offset value" to DG customers of \$0.105/kWh for electricity that is generated and immediately consumed onsite by solar customers without export to the APS system.

1 It is important to understand that the \$0.105/kWh offset value included in
2 the Settlement Agreement is an average value. Section 18.2 of the Settlement
3 Agreement explains: "The offset rate is based on the load profile and
4 production profile of APS customers with DG during the test year." However,
5 "[i]ndividual customer offset will vary based on individual usage patterns
6 and DG system size, orientation, and production." As such, the "self-
7 consumption offset rate" of \$0.105/kWh is an average value. Solar DG
8 customers that take service under the TOU-E rate and pay the \$0.93/kW-DC
9 Grid Access Charge may achieve a lower or higher offset value than
10 \$0.105/kWh.

11
12 The direct testimony of R. Thomas Beach, submitted on February 3, 2017,
13 supports a higher offset value of 13.6 cents with no Grid Access Charge.²
14 However, in the interest of achieving settlement, SEIA agreed to accept a
15 lower offset value, which is achieved by applying the Grid Access Charge of
16 \$0.93/kW-DC to DG customers.

17
18 Another area in which SEIA agreed to accept an outcome that differs from
19 SEIA's litigation position is with respect to the on-peak period in APS's TOU
20 and demand rates. Section 17.8 of the Settlement Agreement provides for a
21 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm on-peak period for the TOU and demand rates that are
22 available to DG customers. The February 3, 2017 direct testimony of R.
23 Thomas Beach proposes peak periods for these tariffs of 2:00 pm to 7:00
24 pm.³ However, in the interest of achieving settlement, SEIA has agreed to
25 support a later on-peak period of 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

² Page 43, Table 8.

³ Pages 38-41.

1
2 **Q9. Does SEIA support the Resource Comparison Proxy Rate ("RCP") of**
3 **\$0.129/kWh kWh for year one?**

4 Q9. Yes. The RCP is the rate that DG customers will receive for electricity that is
5 exported to the APS system because it is not immediately needed by a DG
6 customer onsite. Section 18.3 of the Settlement Agreement provides for an
7 initial RCP rate of \$0.129/kWh, which will be available for the first year
8 following the rate effective date of the Commission's final decision in this
9 proceeding. The RCP value is "inclusive of undifferentiated transmission,
10 distribution, and loss components," which is consistent with Decision Nos.
11 75859 and 75932. Also consistent with Decision Nos. 75859 and 75932, the
12 RCP rate will be updated annually, but it will not be reduced from one year to
13 the next by more than 10%.

14
15 Attachment H to the Settlement Agreement contains the rate riders that will
16 implement the RCP as well as a plan of administration for updating the RCP
17 value on an annual basis. As set forth in the RCP Rate Rider in Appendix H,
18 customers that interconnect a solar system after the rate effective date of the
19 Commission's final decision in this proceeding will receive the RCP rate in
20 effect at the time they submit a completed interconnection application for
21 their system, provided that they subsequently complete their system
22 interconnection and obtain approval from authorities having jurisdiction
23 within 180 days. The RCP Rate Rider provides an extension of up to 270 days
24 if a delay in completing the interconnection and receiving approval is
25 through no fault of the customer or the customer's installer. Consistent with
26 Decision Nos. 75859 and 75932, the customer will receive the RCP rate that
27 is then in effect for 10 years from the time of their interconnection.

1
2 In addition to my testimony in support of the Settlement Agreement, SEIA is
3 also submitting testimony of R. Thomas Beach in support of the Settlement
4 Agreement. Mr. Beach's testimony supports setting the initial RCP rate for
5 year one at \$0.129/kWh. As explained in Mr. Beach's testimony, the
6 \$0.129/kWh export rate is well below what SEIA would have recommended
7 based on APS's marginal or avoided T&D costs. Accordingly, this is another
8 area in which SEIA has agreed to an outcome different than what it believes
9 is justified in the interest of achieving settlement.
10

11 **Q10. Does SEIA support the grandfathering of net-metered customers**
12 **provided for in the Settlement Agreement?**

13 A10. Yes. Sections 18.5 and 18.6 of the Settlement Agreement allow customers
14 that submit completed interconnection applications before the rate effective
15 date adopted in the final decision in this proceeding to take service under full
16 retail net metering and to continue to take service on their current tariff
17 schedules for a period of 20 years from the date a system is interconnected
18 with APS. SEIA believes this outcome is consistent with Decision No. 75859.
19

20 **Q11. Are there any issues of importance to SEIA members that are not**
21 **addressed in the Settlement Agreement?**

22 A11. Yes. As I stated above, the Settlement Agreement does not include all of the
23 outcomes that SEIA's members had hoped to achieve. In particular, SEIA's
24 members are concerned that neither Decision Nos. 75859 and 75932, nor the
25 Settlement Agreement, provide transparency with respect to the export rate
26 that customers will receive at the end of the 10-year RCP payment period.
27 Solar systems typically produce electrical output for periods of 20 years or

1 longer. I understand that it can be difficult for SEIA's members to finance
2 solar systems over a typical 20-year or longer period when the value of
3 exported power, which can amount to 50% or more of the electricity that
4 customers generate on-site with solar systems, is unknown. SEIA's members
5 are concerned that the uncertainty of payment levels after year 10 will
6 impact their ability to finance systems under typical leasing arrangements
7 that look to recover the cost of an installed system over the useful life of the
8 of a solar system, which is 20-years or longer.

9
10 Although this issue was not resolved in the Settlement Agreement, SEIA
11 supports the Settlement Agreement and believes that it reasonably balances
12 APS's rate increase with benefits for customers. SEIA looks forward to
13 working with APS, the Commission, and interested parties in future
14 proceedings to provide greater transparency and predictability for payment
15 levels beyond 10 years for customers that install solar systems after the rate
16 effective date of the final decision in this proceeding.

17
18 **Q12. Does this conclude your testimony?**

19 **A12.** Yes, it does.